TEMPLE ARCHITECTURE & ART OF VIJAYANAGARA

HAMPI

MSP

MYNAA SWAMY
(Mylaram Narayana Swamy)

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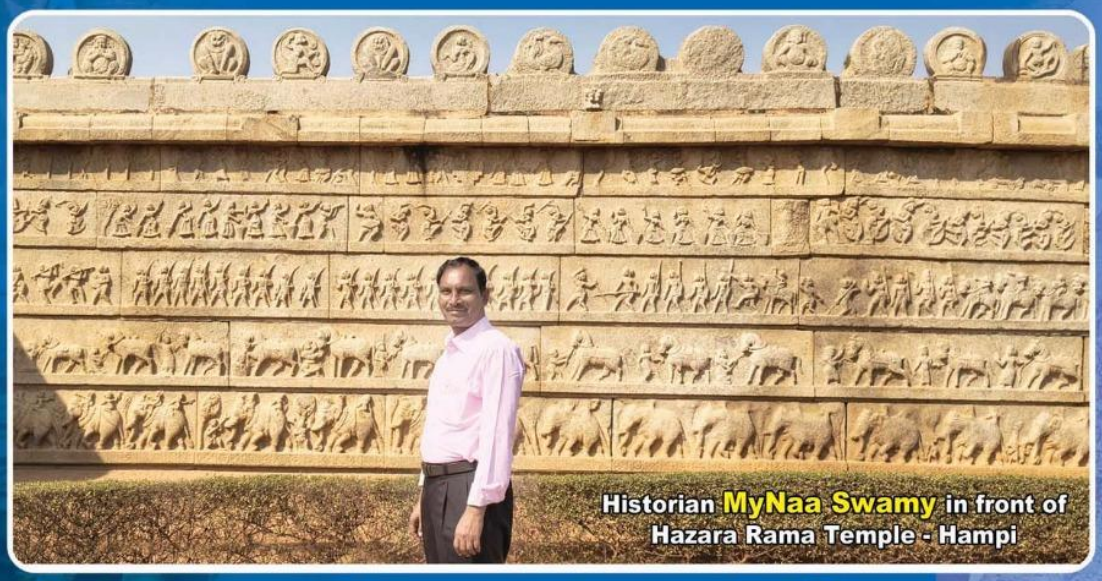

Historian MyNaa Swamy in front of Hazara Rama Temple - Hampi

'Ugadi' Puraskaram	: A.P. State government's prestigious 'Ugadi' Puraskaram on March 31, 2025
Interpreter to PM	: Acted as Interpreter to Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, during his visit to Lepakshi Veerabhadra Temple on January 16, 2024
Award	: 'Paryaataka Rathna' title and Gold Medal from IIOH, Delhi (2019)
Tourism Excellence Awards - (Govt. of A.P.)	: ❖ Best Publicity Book - Lepakshi (English) - 2024 ❖ Best Journalist (Telugu) 2017 ❖ Best Writer 2014 ❖ Best Journalist (English) 2012 ❖ Best Publication 2010
Seminars	: 16 National and State level Seminars about History, Tourism & Culture.

Mr.MyNaa Swamy is having very good knowledge about Temples and Historic places. I have gone through his Book – Rayalaseema Apoorva Kalaa Khandaalu. He has depicted the greatness, rich culture and heritage of Rayalaseema.

***- 'Padmasri' Dr.N.T.Rama Rao,** Former Chief Minister & Leader of Opposition. (14th March 1994)*

Mr.MyNaa Swamy is known to me as a Journalist for over a decade.He has keen interest in probing into the socio-economic problems. He has a great zeal to carry out research. His research would help understanding the socio-economic conditions of the State better which in turn will help in addressing the developmental issues of the State and the Country.

***- Sri Nara Chandra Babu Naidu,** Chief Minister of A.P. (18th April 2001)*

Mr.MyNaa Swamy (Mylaram Narayana Swamy) is not only a Journalist, he is a Researcher. Tourism News,Edited by him is most attractive Magazine. **-Dr.Konijeti Rosaiah,** Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh. (27th Sept 2010)

'Hampi' book provides insights into the Empire's history and its rulers, which help in understanding the background to the temple's construction and functioning. There are also elaborate descriptions of the religious activities and stances of the Vijayanagara rulers.

***-Raja Krishnadeva Raya** (19th Generation of King Krishna Deva Raya), Anegondi-Hampi*

The book 'Hampi,' written by Mr. MyNaa Swamy, will undoubtedly be invaluable to future generations of research scholars. The research presented is impressive. Heartfelt congratulations to the author for his extensive study of the Hampi temples and for his significant contributions to the history, culture, architecture, and art of Vijayanagara Empire.

***- Dr. Daniel Negers,** INALCO-PARIS,France*

Mr.MyNaa Swamy is very serious about the development of rural India. He is very keen about Sustainable development. His articles are thought provoking. **-Dr.K.Kasturi Rangan ,** Chairman, ISRO. (20th Jan 2001)

Mr.MyNaa Swamy is known for values. He is known to me for over two decades. He is committed to Journalism.

–Sri Tirumalagiri Surendar , Chairman, AP Press Academy. (10th April 2010)

Mr.Mylaram Narayana Swamy is very bright & brave journalist. He is very concerned about Socio-Economic development. Mr.Swamy has filed several Investigative News Reports. **-Dr.Mashedy Harrison,**Chair Person, Fulbright Interview Committee,Govt of U.S.(25th Sept 2000)

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THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS
TIRUPATI | THURSDAY | 01.01.2026
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Lepakshi, a living JEWEL of Vijayanagara art

Perched on a rocky hillock in Andhra Pradesh, Lepakshi stands as a striking and still-understated example of Vijayanagara architecture and sculpture. Once a thriving cultural and trading centre, the town is now a mandal headquarters. Yet its artistic wealth, carved in hard stone and painted across temple ceilings, continues to mesmerise visitors who step into this remarkable heritage site.

The sculptures of Lepakshi are a testament to the extraordinary skill of craftsmen of the Vijayanagara Empire. Solid rock was patiently chiselled into refined forms, while temple roofs were adorned with vivid mural paintings. Though mural traditions in Indian temples go back more than two thousand years, the murals in the Papanaaseswara Swamy and Veerabhadra Swamy temples are unique in style and scale, earning admiration far beyond the region. The creators of this architectural wonder were the brothers Virupanna and Veeranna, sons of Muddamamba and Nandi Lakkisetti of Penukonda. Virupanna served as treasury officer and royal representative during the reign of Achyuta Deva Raya (1529–1542

ision and resolve gave Lepakshi temple comdures to this day.

bout 13 km from Hinm from Anantapur, 16 Kodikonda checkpost l Highway 44 and 123 engaluru, Lepakshi isitors with a breath: — the massive mono-. At 20 feet high and 30 is the largest single-culpture in India and d at the eastern entrance.

A world of pillars

Beyond the Nandi lies a world of pillars, halls and shrines. The complex includes the temples of Papanaaseswara Swamy, Veerabhadra Swamy, Raghunatha and Anjaneya. Among the most talked-about features are the 'hanging pillar', which appears not to touch the ground, and the striking seven-headed serpent coiled around the Sivalingam, known as the Naagalingam. A newer attraction, the Jataayu theme park, has come up on the eastern side of the complex.

Although the cave shrine of Siva is the oldest structure here, the main presiding deity is Veerabhadra Swamy. The six-foot-tall idol, carved from black stone, stands with a commanding presence. With four arms holding a bow, arrow, long knife and shield, the figure is both fierce and majestic. At the base of the idol are sculptures depicting Daksha Prajapati, recalling the myth of Daksha's Yagna and giving the shrine deep narrative significance.

Sculptural richness

The sculptural richness of Lepakshi reflects the height of Vijayanagara artistry. Images at the temple tower entrance are exquisite, while dancing maidens carved in graceful poses display a keen sense of movement and rhythm. Though Telugu sculptural traditions predate the Mauryan era, they reached their zenith under the Vijayanagara rulers, with regional styles blending seamlessly into a grand visual language. One of the most fascinating elements is the Hanging Pillar in the Naatya Mandapam. Local lore says there were once several such pillars, known as 'Aakaasa Stambhams'. Today, only one remains, lightly touching the ground on one side. British engineers during the colonial period reportedly examined the pillar, attempting to understand its construction. Even now, a thin cloth or paper can be passed beneath it, leaving visitors astonished at the ingenuity of ancient builders.

Equally compelling is the image of Bhikshatana Murthy — Siva as the alms-seeking ascetic. Revered by Veera Saivas and followers of the Paasupatha sect, this form of Siva is usually depicted unclothed. At Lepakshi, however, the deity is shown wearing an ornate garment, making the sculpture both rare and visually striking. A towering image of Bhikshatana Murthy on a pillar in the Naatya Mandapam adds to the temple's grandeur.

Near the Navagraha pedestal in the Maha Mandapam stands the elegant sculpture of Padmini, captured in a dance pose. According to tradition, she was a famed court dancer during Achyuta Raya's reign, unmatched in music and movement, and celebrated across Vijayanagara and Penukonda. The murals of Lepakshi are perhaps its crowning glory. Spread across ceilings and corridors, they depict epic tales, royal figures and divine forms in rich colour. The scale is extraordinary — the painting of Veerabhadra Swamy on the Maha Mandapam ceiling, measuring 25 by 14 feet, is considered the largest mural of its kind in Asia. Given its artistic and historical value, Lepakshi is now seeking the recognition it long deserves.

Waiting for UNESCO World Heritage Structure tag

MyNaa Swamy

Tourism expert and historian MyNaa Swamy has submitted a preliminary report to Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu, highlighting the temple complex's eligibility for permanent UNESCO World Heritage status.

Lepakshi was placed on UNESCO's tentative list on March 30, 2022.

The report points to key features such as the massive monolithic Nandi, the towering Naagalingam, the vertical sculptures of the Naatya Mandapam, and the extensive mural panels. Mr Swamy has urged the formation of an expert committee to begin consultations with UNESCO through the Central government, noting that heritage status could transform the region and create new employment opportunities. The Chief Minister, he says, has assured support for the effort.

With its blend of sculpture, painting, myth and history, Lepakshi remains not just a monument of stone, but a living chapter of India's artistic past — patiently waiting for the world to take fuller notice.

('MyNaa Swamy has acted as interpreter to Prime Minister Mr.Narendra Modi,during his visit to Lepakshi)

METRO INDIA 20.2.2026 Hyderabad

Inscription of Krishna Raya on the throne of Kadiri Temple

METRO INDIA NEWS | HYDERABAD

Historian MyNaa Swamy said that a single-sentence inscription of Sri Krishna Deva Raya has been identified on the throne, located in Kalyana Mandapam of Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Temple at Kadiri in Sri Sathya Sai district.

He explained that as part of his research on the Vijayanagara temples, he had examined the temple inscriptions along with Executive Officer Srinivasa Reddy on Thursday.

The throne in the Kalyana Mandapam in the southern part of the main temple was built by the royal representative, Thimmappa Nayudu, on the orders of the Vijayanagara emperor, Sri Krishna Deva Raya, for Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy, the historian added.

MyNaa Swamy states that the Kalyana Mandapam must have been built by the Krishna Raya, as a throne with remarkable sculptural wealth was specially constructed there so that the Kalyanotsavams could be held by placing the ceremonial idols of Lord Narasimha on it.

He said that a one-line Telugu inscription of Sri Krishna Deva Raya was identified on the throne's pedestal. While the throne is decorated with sculptures of Keerti mukhas, Deva koshtas, lions, etc., the sculpture of Garuda sitting and bowing on the eastern side is very beautiful, he said.

Another donation inscription of Raya is found near the west gopuram of the temple. EO Srinivas Reddy praised that MyNaa Swamy's ongoing research on the structures, temples, and inscriptions dating back to the Vijayanagara Empire is commendable. EO wanted a book on Kadiri Temple by MyNaa Swamy.

THE HANS INDIA

Historian MyNaa Swamy narrates Lepakshi tales to PM

Ravi P Benjamin
Lepakshi (Sri Sathya Sai district)

Historian MyNaa Swamy with Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Lepakshi Sri Veerabhadra Swamy temple

HISTORIAN MyNaa Swamy, who was the guide and narrator to Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Lepakshi temple, revealed that the later was amazed at the hanging pillar and gazed up at a 25 x 14 foot image of Veera Bhadra Swamy painted on the ceiling of the Great Hall.

Swamy detailed on the painting, which Veera Bhadra Swamy holding various weapons in ten hands, wielding long swords, and smashing Daksha's head during Dakshayajna.

Impressed at the sculptures and oil paintings in the dance hall, the PM enquired on the hanging pillar and about its special features. Aslo, the PM admired the oil paintings of Kiratharjuniya Ghattam, Girija Kalyanam, Veerabhadra's favored temple builder Virupanna, and his entourage. As the historian MyNaa Swamy explained the painting of Vatapatrasai, Prime Minister Modi noticed the depiction of Balakrishna's eyes from three sides. He witnessed the exquisite figure of Bhikchatanamurthy in the dance hall. The Prime Minister listened with curiosity to the explanations about the disparities in the idols.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has praised the architectural wealth of the historic Lepakshi temple as amazing. He stated that the temple reflects Indian history, ancient glory, the culture of the Vijayanagar Empire, and its architectural grandeur.

METRO INDIA

'Sri Krishnadeva Raya's Jayanti is on February 16'

■ Historian MyNaa Swamy

METRO INDIA NEWS | PUTTAPARTHI

Historian MyNaa Swamy has reiterated that the birth anniversary of Sri Krishna Deva Raya, the monarch of the Vijayanagara Empire, has been celebrated only on February 16 for several decades, and there is no need to confuse it.

In a press statement on Tuesday,he said that Since 1929, the birth anniversary of Raya has been celebrated on February 16, and few people are celebrating on January 17 and few others on January 27 in recent days.

However, 90 per cent of the people, members of various associations, and litterateurs celebrated Krishna Raya Jayanthi on February 16. It was decided that the Jayanthi celebrations of Sri Krishna Deva Raya under the leadership of litterateurs and artists Roddam Hanumantha Rao and Roddam Raja Rao, would be held at Penukonda Gagan Mahal on February 16. From 1929 to 1946, Jayanti was celebrated not just for a day but for a week from February 12 to 18 in Penukonda, Lepakshi, Chola Samudra, Hindupur, Anantapuram, Nandyala and other places, the historian added.

Meanwhile, according to renowned researcher Dr. Arudra, the author of 'Samagra Andhra Sahityam(12 Volumes),' Mohanangi,the daughter of Sri Krishnadevaraya, and her said work-Marichi Parinayam, is a myth. This was stated in an article written in 1975 in 'Jameen Roythu' magazine. Referring to the same issue, the historian said that Mohanangi was mentioned as a fictional character on page 92 of the book 'Bhuvana Vijayam' published in 2025 by the Department of Culture, Government of Andhra Pradesh.

In view of the importance of February 16 in the life of Raya the Great, several inscriptions say that after the victory over the Udayagiri fort, the beautiful idol of Balakrishna which was carried from there as a war trophy was installed by the Raya on February 16 in the Krishna temple at Hampi. Therefore, it is appropriate to celebrate Krishna Raya Jayanthi on 16th February.

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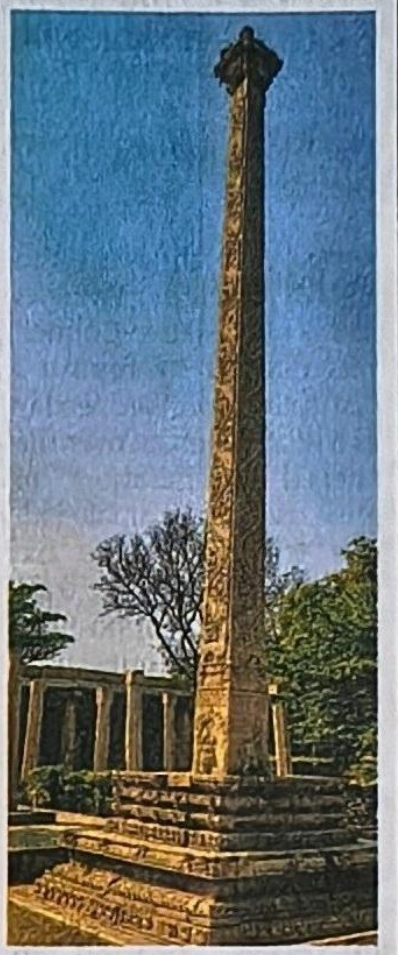
The Hindu 5.3.2026

Telugu inscriptions identified at temple in Annamayya dist.

The Hindu Bureau
MULAKALACHERUVU

Two Telugu inscriptions have been identified on a lamp post in front of the famed Sri Chennakesava temple at Somapalayam, located 7 km from Mulakalacheruvu railway station in Annamayya district, according to Gorantla-based historian MyNaa Swamy.

Speaking to the media here on Wednesday, the historian said he noticed the inscriptions during his research visit on the architecture and art of Vijayanagara empire.



The 50-foot Deepasthambam at the Chennakesava Temple at Somapalayam.

Monolithic pillar

The engravings, found on the pedestal of the monolithic pillar, bear the phrases "Subhamastu Swasti Sri Jayabhyudaya" on one side and "Jaya Samvatsaram" on the other. The remaining portions have been erased over time.

Based on the cyclic year 'Jaya' and the script style, the inscriptions date back to 1534 CE, during the reign of Emperor Achyuta Deva Raya, followed by that of famed Krishnadevaraya, Mr. Swamy said.

The findings suggest that the construction of Somapalayam Chennakesava temple had been completed by then.

Regards MyNaa Swamy, Historian INDIA Mob.+91 9502659119